(b) The steps being taken for the empowerment of women and to curb crimes against them are detailed in the enclosed statement [Refer to the statement appened to the answer to USQ 1070 Part (b)]

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) There is no proposal for any special law in this respect.

HDI Position

1083. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country remains at the 128th position in the Human Development Index;

(b) whether infant mortality rate, maternal mortality rate and illiteracy are the major factors;

(c) if so, whether government has contemplated schemes to improve the situation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the schemes under ICDS would further be expanded; and

(f) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes Sir, India remains at 128 position in the Human Development Index (HDI).

(b) No, Sir. The indicators for HDI are health as measured by life expectancy, level of knowledge and skills as measure by the weighted average of functional literacy and combined elementary and secondary net enrolment rate and access to resources as measured by the level of real per capita income.

(c) and (d) The Government is seized of the problem of malnutrition and IMR is implementing a number of schemes throughout the country, which directly or indirectly improve the nutritional status of women & children. Some of these are as under:

(i) Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) Scheme (Ministry of Women & Child Development);

The steps taken in the recent past to increase the effectiveness of the delivery of services under ICDS include:

The scheme has been expanded twice in the year 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 during the Tenth Five Year Plan.

The Government has doubled the financial norms for supplementary nutrition from Re.1 to Rs.2/-per beneficiary per day.

From the year 2005-06, 50% cost of supplementary nutrition is also being shared with the States/UTs.

Constant emphasis on States to:

- Ensure regular supply of supplementary nutrition as per schematic norms.
- Ensure effective convergence of health, nutrition, education and safe drinking water services under various programmes.
- Generate nutrition awareness.

(ii) National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid Day Meal Scheme) (Department of School Education & Literacy);

(iii) Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls in 51 districts to provide free foodgrains to undernourished adolescent girls (Ministry of Women & Child Development);

(iv) Nutrition Education and Training Programmes of Food and Nutrition Board (Ministry of Women & Child Development);

(v) Reproductive and Child Health (RCH-II) Programme under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) including:

(Ministry of Health & Family Welfare);

Maternal Health by promoting institutional deliveries, improved coverage and quality of Ante Natal Care (ANC), skilled care to pregnant women, Post-partum care at Community level.

Immunization.

Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses and malnutrition.

Emphasis on Infant & Young Child Feeding.

Specific Programmes to prevent and combat micronutrient deficiencies of Vitamin A and Iron & Folic Acid through Vitamin A Supplementation for children till the age of 5 years and Iron & Folic Acid Supplementation for preschool children, pregnant and lactating women.

(vi) National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare);

(vii) Targeted Public Distribution System (Department of Food & Public Distribution);

(viii) Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme/Swajaldhara and Total Sanitation Campaign; National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (Ministry of Rural Development).

(e) & (f) In pursuance of the commitment of the Government to universalize the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme as envisaged in the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP), the Scheme has been expanded twice in the year 2005-06 & 2006-07. With these expansions, the total number of ICDS Project. Anganwadi Centres and Mini Anganwadi Centres has increased to 6284, 10.53 lakhs and 36829 respectively.

To cover the, hiterto, uncovered habitations across the country, the proposal for 792 additional projects, 2.13 lakhs Anganwadi centres and 77053 Mini-Anganwadi centres under 3rd phase expansion has been articulated.